

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09792

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, FR, GW
SUBJECT: REPORTED MITTERRAND VIEWS ON UNION OF THE LEFT

REF: PARIS 10820

1. A KNOWLEDGEABLE SPD SOURCE HAS TOLD US ABOUT A MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN MITTERRAND AND A SENIOR SPD LEADER ON APRIL 27. THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO MITTERRAND CLOSELY PARALLEL EMBASSY PARIS' ANALYSIS OF THE POST-ELECTION LEFT (REFTEL). OUR SOURCE ALSO MET WITH GILLES MARTINET, DESCRIBED AS A MEMBER OF THE PS EXECUTIVE BOARD. THE LATTER DISCUSSION, AT A RECENT SWISS SOCIALIST PARTY CONVENTION, REINFORCED THE IMPRESSIONS GLEANED FROM THE APRIL 27 MEETING WITH MITTERRAND.

2. MITTERRAND TOLD HIS SPD INTERLOCUTOR THAT "THE COMMON PROGRAM IS DEAD" AND THE SOCIALISTS (PS) WOULD MOVE TOWARD A MORE INDEPENDENT POLICY. MITTERRAND SAID THE PS WOULD MAKE NO EFFORT TO WORK OUT A POST-ELECTION ARRANGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNISTS (PCF). HE CITED THE PS DECISION TO CONTEST ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INDEPENDENT OF THE PCF AS AN EXAMPLE OF FUTURE
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PARTY ORIENTATION. MITTERRAND REPORTEDLY SAID "I DIDN'T CONSULT THE PCS. THEY HAVE BORED ME WITH THEIR IDEOLOGY. THE SOCIALIST LEADER WAS VERY BITTER TOWARD THE PCF, FREQUENTLY ACCUSING THE COMMUNISTS OF TREACHERY.

3. MITTERRAND TOLD THE GERMANS THAT THE PS WOULD BEGIN WORKING ON A NEW PROGRAM, WHICH WOULD "ABANDON OLD

FORMULATIONS." HE SAID THE PROGRAM WOULD OFFER NEW ECONOMIC CONCEPTS WHICH WOULD FOCUS LESS ON NATIONALIZATION AND MORE ON CONCRETE PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE ENVIRONMENT AND/REJUVENATION OF FRENCH CITIES.

4. OUR SOURCE, PERHAPS OVER-ENTHUSIASTICALLY, OPINED THAT THE PS APPARENTLY HAD EMBARKED UPON THE PATH THAT HAD LED THE GERMAN SOCIALISTS TO THE BAD GODESBERG PROGRAM, I.E. A DEPARTURE FROM THE PARTY'S CLASS-ORIENTED PAST AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE MARKET SYSTEM AND THE BROAD TENETS OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY. WHILE THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN SOON, AND SUCH A STAND MIGHT NOT EVEN EMERGE FROM THE MID-1979 PARTY CONGRESS, OUR SOURCE BELIEVED THE PS HAD BEGUN THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION.

5. OUR SOURCE SAID THE NEW ORIENTATION OF THE PS HAD RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE STRIFE WITHIN THE PARTY. MITTERRAND AND ROCARD WERE WORKING HARD TO REDUCE THE INFLUENCE, AND PARTICULARLY THE INDEPENDENCE OF, CERES. THE INTRA-PARTY STRUGGLE WAS SEVERE, HOWEVER, AND MITTERRAND WHILE MAKING A DE FACTO TURN AWAY FROM THE UNION OF THE LEFT COULD NOT AFFORD TO MAKE A PUBLIC BREAK. TO DO SO WOULD MEAN THE LOSS OF A SIGNIFICANT PART OF PS MEMBERSHIP WHICH WAS UNPREPARED FOR A BREAK, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE.

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6. AT THE APRIL 27 MEETING, MITTERRAND HAD SAID THAT CFDT LEADER MAIRE HAD EXPRESSED TO HIM HIS REGRET AT HAVING GIVEN PRIORITY TO THE UNION OF THE LEFT DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. HE SAID HE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY MORE CIRCUMSPECT ABOUT ACCEPTING PCF SUPPORT IN FUTURE LABOR ACTIONS.

7. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, MITTERRAND AND MARTINET HAD DESCRIBED THE SITUATION WITHIN THE PC AS VERY UNSTABLE. THEY SAID MARCHAIS WAS UNDER HEAVY FIRE AND HIS LEADERSHIP POSITION HAD BEEN WEAKENED. THEY SAID CRITICISM STEMMED LARGELY FROM THE RANK AND FILE WHICH OBJECTED TO MARCHAIS' ELECTION CAMPAIGN WHICH HAD BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST THE PS RATHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT. STOESEL

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